for the purpose in the next year's budget under New Works. Special repairs to the Pier are also now being carried on and the estimated expenditure in the current year is Rs 50,000 while a provision of Rs 25,000 has been made in the budget for the next year.

28. *Superannuation Allowances and Pensions.*—With a view to afford relief to the families of officers in Government service dying in harness or within one year after retirement, a scheme of compassionate gratuities has been introduced with effect from 1st Vrischikam 1108. The minimum service required for the grant of the gratuity is 5 year's service qualifying for pension. The gratuity will be calculated at one month's pay for every year of qualifying service, based on the monthly pay on 1st Chingam each year. The maximum service for which the gratuity will be allowed is 30 years. The maximum monthly pay for calculating the gratuity has been fixed as Rs 400 and the maximum amount of the gratuity as Rs 3,000. In the case of pensioners the amount of pension drawn will be deducted from the gratuity calculated as above. The expenditure in the current year is expected to stand at Rs 1,500. An allotment of Rs 20,000 has been provided for the payment of gratuity next year.

29. *The Public Service Recruitment Committee.*—This Committee which was appointed to enquire into and report on the question of placing the system of recruitment to Public Service on a definite basis began its work in Chingam of the current year. The report is expected to be ready by the close of this year and provision is made in the budget for the next year for one month only.

30. *Village Panchayats.*—Six Panchayats have been organised during the current year and three more are proposed to be organised during the coming year, one at Kumarakam in the Kottayam Division and the others at Ayiroor and Kundara in the Quilon Division. A provision of Rs 10,000 is proposed for the payment of contribution to the Panchayats under Section 44 (3) of the Village Panchayats Regulation.

31. *Anchal.*—For the speedy transmission of mails it is proposed to introduce motor mail service between Vaikam and Ettumanoor and also between Ettumanoor and Poonjar, in place of the present runner service. The runner service between Vandamettu and Udumbanshola abolished from Edavam 1107 is also proposed to be resumed, as transmission of mails by motor along a circuitous route has led to much delay. Consequent on the formation and working of a number of Insurance companies, the volume of work in some of the Anchal Offices and in the Anchal Superintendent's Office has increased. The entertainment of a temporary additional staff was therefore sanctioned during the year. It is proposed to continue this staff next year also.

32. *State Land Mortgage Bank.*—Last year I had made mention of the opening of the Land Mortgage Bank as a Government concern. The Bank grants loans for the liquidation of prior debts on land, the minimum and maximum limits being Rs 250 and Rs 3,000 respectively.

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